

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2012-2013, 17 and 19 October 2012

Question: E12- 070

OUTCOME 11: Mental health

Topic: NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME AND MENTAL HEALTH

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Number of pages: 2

Senator: Senator Wright

Question:

Will the NDIS cover mental health? If so, please explain how it will do this?

Answer:

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Bill, released into Parliament on 29 November, states that a person is eligible under the NDIS if:

- the person has a disability that is attributable to one or more intellectual, cognitive, neurological, sensory or physical impairments or to one or more impairments attributable to a psychiatric condition; and
- the impairment or impairments are, or are likely to be, permanent; and
- the impairment or impairments result in substantially reduced functional capacity to undertake, or psychosocial functioning in undertaking, one or more of the following activities:
 - i) communication;
 - ii) social interaction;
 - iii) learning;
 - iv) mobility;
 - v) self-care;
 - vi) self-management; and
- the impairment or impairments affect the person's capacity for social and economic participation; and
- the person's support needs in relation to his or her impairment or impairments are likely to continue for the person's lifetime.

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Service and Indigenous Affairs advises that the NDIS will work closely with the mental health system to make sure that the support an eligible person with a psychiatric condition receives aligns with any clinical, acute or ambulatory mental health care that a person is receiving outside the scheme. Under the NDIS an eligible person with a psychiatric condition will have more choice, control and flexibility in how their supports are delivered. This means that a person will:

- receive supports that are individually tailored to their circumstances, and respond to each individual's goals and aspirations;
- have decision-making power about their care and support, including choice of service provider;
- be able to choose to be assisted by local coordinators to help manage and deliver their support; and
- access a system they can easily navigate and that will link them to mainstream and community services.

The government is currently working through the details of how current programs will operate in the context of the new scheme.